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250 JOBS HOPE BOOST

Industrial units plan in bid to attract new firms

By Oliver Evans

BANBURY will get an employment boost of up to 250 jobs under new plans for more businesses by the M40.

A developer wants to put up one to three new industrial units by the DHL depot at Banbury Point, Wildmere Industrial Estate, by Junction 11.

This would secure 150 to 250 jobs for local businesses seeking new premises or create new jobs, said planning consultant David Green.

A planning application has been submitted to Cherwell District Council by AC Lloyd Holdings Ltd, which has bought the grassland from AXA Reim.

It says the plan – which is being marketed to developers – would create a "modern, successful and vibrant location for business".

It adds: "This application seeks to enable efficient designs and flexible proposals, focused on current market demands making the best use of the site, increasing potential for local jobs."

Banbury Civic Society chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith hailed plans to develop the "gateway site" for business.

He said: "Banbury Civic Society would strongly support any proposal that makes best use of this key site."

It is the latest development proposed for land along the motorway, which has long been earmarked for employment use by the council.

In March, it approved controversial plans for a retail park at the industrial estate at motorsport firm Prodrive, which will move nearby.

The scheme – to include Marks & Spencer and Next – will create 750 jobs when it opens in 2014. But traders warned it would hit the town centre.

Two months later, it approved outline plans for six warehouses to create 1,000 jobs alongside the M40, off Overthorpe Road, Banbury.

That plan was for 115,000sqm of floor space and the latest proposal – for Brookhill Way – would be for 10,500sqm.

It would be used for general business, industrial or storage and sit alongside the Junction 11 roundabout.

The site has long been eyed for development with permissions given in 1999 – now expired – and in 2010, to expire next year.

The application says: "The site has excellent transport links, the strategic road network and local distributor routes can be readily accessed from this area – so avoiding lorry movements through residential areas.

"Although an edge-of-town site, it is also within walking distance of the town centre and bus and railway stations."

An aerial picture, showing the location of the proposed site near the junction of the M40

As the *Banbury Cake* is not publishing on December 27, see you all again on January 3

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Hunt and two members admit unlawful hunting with dogs

Hunt fined after RSPCA launches a prosecution

MEMBERS of Oxfordshire's Heythrop Hunt have been convicted of illegal fox hunting in the first such prosecution ever mounted by the RSPCA.

The Heythrop Hunt Limited, along with members Julian Barnfield, 49, and Richard Sumner, 68, admitted a total of 12 counts of unlawful hunting with dogs.

The case was the first where a whole hunt has faced corporate charges and was also the first undertaken by the RSPCA involving the prosecution of a hunt itself.

Footage of hounds dragging the body of a fox across a muddy field was played to the courtroom as the offences were outlined to District Judge Tim Pattinson.

The hearing, at Oxford Magistrates' Court, was told how the Heythrop Hunt met on four occasions and hunted foxes with dogs, in contravention of the Hunting Act 2004.

Jeremy Carter-Manning QC, prosecuting on behalf of the RSPCA, said the footage showed evidence of "prolonged and deliberate unlawful hunting".

By Ellie Simmonds

Mr Carter-Manning said: "The foxes are clearly seen by a number of relevant people, including Mr Sumner and Mr Barnfield and others.

"They are seen actively pursuing the hounds, which are in pursuit of a fox."

Both men and the Heythrop Hunt admitted four counts of unlawfully hunting a fox with dogs.

The offences took place on November 23 and November 30 last year, as well as February 29 and March 7 this year.

Philip Mott QC, defending, said during that period there would have been around 100 hunts, each lasting some five hours.

He said: "What you have here is unlawful hunting, shown and admitted, of no more than 15 minutes in total.

"It's our case that the rest of the time this hunt was operating trail hunting."

Retired huntsman Barnfield, 49, of Worcester Road, Chipping Norton, and retired huntmaster Sumner, 68, of Salperton, Gloucestershire, each admitted four charges of unlawfully hunting a fox with dogs.

Sentencing, District Judge Pattinson said: "Hunting foxes provokes extremely strong feelings on both sides of the argument.

"Some people see hunting foxes as cruel and immoral.

"Others see hunting as an essential and traditional part of countryside management and they say that criminalising the activity is inappropriate."

Barnfield was fined a total of £1,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs and Sumner was fined a total of £1,800 and ordered to pay £2,500 costs. Both men were also ordered to pay a £15 victims' surcharge. The Heythrop Hunt Limited was fined a total of £4,000, costs of £15,000 and a £15 victims' surcharge.

The case was based on footage shot by independent monitors and passed to the RSPCA. It then deployed its undercover Special Operations Unit to investigate before deciding to go ahead with a prosecution that cost more than £250,000.

GUILTY: Julian Barnfield

GUILTY: Richard Sumner

Flashback to December 2010, when the Heythrop Hunt departed from the centre of Chipping Norton on a Boxing Day Hunt

Banbury Cake

EDITOR
Simon O'Neill 01865 425450

NEWS EDITOR
01865 425500

PICTURE EDITOR
01865 425446

Email letters to
letters@banburycake.co.uk

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Although we strive to avoid errors, some may slip through the net. If you find an error of fact, please write to the Editor, Simon O'Neill, at Newspaper House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ, or telephone him on 01865 425450. It is our policy to correct mistakes where it is appropriate.

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2010 was 77.4%

MP's call over bishops

THE Church of England must resolve a row over women bishops to stop Parliament passing laws to enforce change, Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry has said.

The Conservative – a church estates commissioner in Parliament – said women must be allowed to attain bishop status.

The Church's general synod last month narrowly rejected the reform.

Sir Tony told Parliament: "Some voices, quite understandably, have suggested that if the Church of England does not act, Parliament might need to.

"It is my earnest prayer that over the coming months the Church of England can and will demonstrate that it can resolve this issue itself."

The Anglican said: "Everyone within the Church of England recognises that until we can resolve the issue of women bishops, we will not be able fully to fulfil our role as a national Church."

He added: "This is not an issue that can be parked."

Sir Tony said: "One cannot have a category of second-class women bishops or in some way create a Church within a Church to accommodate this matter."

Arguments against the reform include honouring tradition and Bible teachings.

Others warn that ordaining women would prevent unity with Roman Catholics.

Conservation guard sought

VIEWS are being sought on plans to divide Middleton Cheney's conservation area in two and amend their boundaries.

The area gives extra protection when South Northamptonshire Council decides on planning applications.

It has now proposed an area for upper and lower Middleton Cheney.

The upper area will extend to land west of Glovers Lane and the lower area will include part of Main Road. Land will be removed from both.

For information, visit south-northants.gov.uk/688.htm. Views are sought by January 16 via heritage@southnorthants.gov.uk

InBRIEF

Blaze investigated

■ Police are investigating a suspicious fire in a garage in Cherry Road, Banbury. Firefighters were called to a small fire in a garage shortly after midnight on Sunday.

Volunteers sought

■ Volunteers are being sought to sign up for a scheme in Adderbury to help safely find missing people with memory problems.Call Deborah Ginns on 07584 051004.

Councils to cut discounts on empty homes

Cherwell District Council's Ken Atack

By Oliver Evans and Freddie Whittaker

■ New powers prompt civic bid to get vacant properties in Oxfordshire back on the market

COUNCIL tax discounts on empty and second homes are to be cut across Oxfordshire in a bid to get more homes into the market.

The county's five authorities, which manage council tax, want to use new powers from the Government to cut back on discounts.

Four local authorities have announced full details of schemes affecting more than 6,000 properties, which they expect to net an extra £377,872 next year.

It is hoped the move will help plug a gap left by a ten per cent reduction in Government funding for council tax benefit.

All want to axe a ten per cent discount on an estimated 2,500 second homes.

And three councils would increase a "premium" on more than 850 long-term empty homes from 100 to 150 per cent.

The changes will also cut:

● The 100 per cent six-month discount on an estimated 4,600 vacant and empty homes to 25 per cent.

● The 100 per cent 12-month discount on an estimated 550 recently-built or uninhabitable homes to 50 per cent, except 25 per cent in Oxford.

● Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council will remove the 100 per cent discount on empty repossessed homes, affecting about 45 properties.

● Oxford, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse will increase premiums on homes empty for more than two years from 100 to 150 per cent.

One local councillor said: "Any empty home in this day and age is really quite scandalous, because it's a home that could be occupied by somebody who really needs it.

"It's incumbent on us to do whatever we can to bring empty homes back into use."

But concerns were raised that the cut to discounts would affect landlords who left their properties empty for short-term maintenance and the extra costs could eventually be passed to tenants.

Jan Bartlett, a senior partner at a lettings firm, warned: "Yet again it is another charge that will be passed on to the tenants.

"They can't keep hitting landlords with these price increases."

National Landlords Association senior policy officer David Cox said landlords strived to fill properties.

But he said of the plans: "Something has to give, but we don't want it to be the quality of the accommodation."

Cherwell District Council has yet to publish its plans but its lead member for financial management, Ken Atack, pledged changes.

It is looking to axe the second home discount and discount for empty and uninhabitable homes. He said: "Sometimes a social need must over-ride individual requirements."

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Snapshot of how Oxfordshire's primaries are progressing

Relief as county schools rise to Stage Two tests

By Fran Bardsley

RESULTS at Oxfordshire primary schools have risen, to top off a record year of educational attainment.

In September it was revealed that the proportion of children across Oxfordshire achieving the benchmark Level 4 in English and maths at age 11 had jumped by seven per cent – from 75 per cent to 82 per cent.

And the new Key Stage 2 figures, published by the Department for Education, show even schools in Oxford, which have historically performed poorly compared to the rest of the county, posted an average 11 percentage points increase – narrowing the gap between city and county schools to three percentage points.

Oxfordshire County Council education cabinet member Melinda Tilley said the news was "fantastic" and admitted to being close to tears when she heard.

She said: "We have all worked so hard on it., I am absolutely overjoyed it has paid off.

"It's not just County Hall. Everybody has really got a bit fed up with it and said come on, you gave got to do something.

"It's been pressure from everyone to say this isn't good enough. We have got to do something and these results are absolutely marvellous."

Mrs Tilley added the improvements were down to a combination of factors.

She said the local authority had given a "tremendous" amount of support, including school improvement officers going into schools, but put the improvements down to hard work and a clearer focus within individual schools.

She said: "Governors, senior leadership teams and headteachers have got together and said we have got to do something about it and they have done it.

"It's also something to do with the threat of takeover and academy status – what they want to do is choose, rather than being pushed."

In Oxford city, 85 per cent of pupils achieved Level 4 or higher in English, up eight percentage points, 84 per cent in maths, up 10 percentage points, and 85 per cent in reading, up four percentage points.

That compares to Oxfordshire figures where 87 per cent made the grade in English, 86 per cent in maths and 88 per cent in reading.

At 20 schools across Oxfordshire, all pupils made the grade in both subjects.

Overall, 141 county schools posted a higher proportion of children achieving Level 4 in both English and maths, while 64 saw a drop.

Schools where less than 60 per cent of pupils achieve Level 4 in both subjects and where the proportion of pupils making expected progress in English and maths falls below the national average are likely to be forced to convert to academy status.

In Oxfordshire this applies to only two schools – St Joseph's, Carterton, which had so few pupils taking the tests its results will be discounted, and Bayard's Hill, Barton.

Last year it applied to 18 Oxfordshire schools.

Oxfordshire County Council education chief Melinda Tilley

InBRIEF

Taxi driver threatened

A taxi driver was threatened with a hammer during a robbery last Thursday morning. Shortly before 2am he drove to Old School Place, Grimsbury, to pick up a fare when he was approached by two men. They opened the car doors and one asked for money, while the other threatened him with the weapon. They took two sat-navs and a personal digital assistant system, before running off towards a local park. Anyone with information is asked to dial 101.

Metal arrest

An article in the Banbury Cake incorrectly stated that a 31-year-old man arrested at Smiths of Bloxham scrapyard on May 29 had his bail extended. In fact, no further action was taken by Thames Valley Police. We apologise for the error.

Prizes plea

Oxfordshire Mind is appealing for prizes to to make up some hampers for Christmas events. Contact Nicky Clargo on 01865 263733 or nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

KEY STAGE 2 TABLES 2012

SCHOOL	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Beckley	20	95%	95%	95%	95%	94%	100%	101.3
Bishop Carpenter, Banbury	13	77%	77%	92%	92%	81%	93%	100.5
Bishop Loveday, Bodicote	58	93%	97%	93%	95%	81%	92%	100.7
Bloxham	57	79%	82%	91%	86%	83%	88%	100.5
Adderbury	28	82%	89%	89%	89%	76%	83%	99.2
Cropredy	19	89%	89%	95%	100%	85%	86%	100.7
Dashwood, Banbury	11	73%	73%	100%	73%	57%	SUPP	100.4
Deddington	31	94%	97%	94%	97%	79%	96%	100.4
Dr Radcliffe's, Steeple Aston	29	93%	93%	97%	93%	86%	86%	101.5
Enstone	16	88%	94%	94%	100%	IA	88%	99.8
Finmere	1	SUPP	SUPP	SUPP	SUPP	SUPP	70%	SUPP
Five Acres, Ambrosden	24	79%	83%	88%	88%	61%	82%	99.6
Great Rollright	17	94%	94%	94%	100%	IA	50%	100.6
Great Tew	10	100%	100%	100%	100%	SUPP	93%	101.4
Hanwell Fields, Banbury	29	66%	79%	79%	72%	IA	71%	99.3
Hardwick, Banbury	25	80%	84%	96%	88%	IA	72%	101
Harriers Ground, Banbury	28	96%	100%	96%	100%	74%	64%	100.6
Hill View, Banbury	66	77%	79%	83%	79%	67%	67%	99.1
Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton	20	95%	95%	95%	95%	IA	86%	100.6
Hook Norton	31	87%	94%	87%	94%	IA	82%	98.6
Middle Barton	10	90%	90%	90%	90%	IA	55%	100.6
Orchard Fields, Banbury	54	76%	80%	83%	85%	IA	47%	99.7
Queensway, Banbury	30	80%	83%	83%	87%	IA	63%	99.9
Shellingford	9	89%	100%	89%	100%	SUPP	56%	100.6
Shenington	15	100%	100%	100%	100%	SUPP	93%	100.2
St John's, Banbury	42	86%	95%	88%	95%	79%	83%	100.4
St Joseph's, Banbury	18	67%	78%	78%	89%	72%	61%	101.9
St Leonard's, Banbury	58	72%	79%	81%	81%	IA	70%	101
St Mary's, Banbury	21	67%	71%	67%	71%	63%	48%	100.6
St Mary's, Chipping Norton	42	74%	83%	76%	81%	IA	63%	98.9
Tackley	12	83%	83%	83%	92%	71%	84%	99.8
The Grange, Banbury	40	78%	93%	80%	95%	72%	77%	99.7
William Morris, Banbury	14	71%	71%	86%	71%	IA	70%	99.5
OXFORDSHIRE	6149	82%	87%	86%	88%	75%	75%	-
SPECIAL SCHOOLS								
Frank Wise School	8	0%	0%	0%	0%	SUPP	0%	92.5
Bardwell School	8	0%	0%	0%	0%	SUPP	SUPP	93

KEY

A: School Number of eligible pupils
B: % achieving Level 4 or above in both English and maths
C: % achieving Level 4 or above in English
D: % achieving Level 4 or above in maths
E: % achieving Level 4 or above in reading
F: % achieving Level 4 in Eng and maths 2010
G: % achieving Level 4 in Eng and maths 2011
H: English and maths value added measure

SUPP: means fewer than six pupils included in the calculation so information not provided by the DfE.
IA: means results not available due to industrial action
NA: Not applicable

Police to clamp down on alcohol-related crimes

A CLAMPDOWN on crimes linked to alcohol has been stepped up ahead of Christmas in North Oxfordshire.

Officers in Cherwell District already run "Operation Jitterbug" on Friday and Saturday nights but are drafting in additional patrols for the festive period.

Supt Andy Boyd, police commander for Cherwell, said: "We are working with our partners and licensees across the area, and there will be additional officers to ensure that the public enjoy the festive season safely.

"It is important to know your limit when consuming alcohol and we remind the public that having one drink too many can lead to unpleasant consequences."

Elderly victim had a mental age of five

Carer is sent to prison for stealing

Jailed: Care worker Denise Kiff

By Ellie Simmonds

A MENTAL health carer who stole more than £31,000 from a vulnerable woman with the mental age of a five-year-old has been jailed.

Over the course of four years Denise Kiff swindled cash from Maureen Baker, who she was supposed to be looking after.

Kiff, who worked for mental health charity Mencap, used Miss Baker's debit card to withdraw money, as well as to buy Chinese takeaways and clothes, and even took out a bank loan in Miss Baker's name.

Oxford Crown Court was told that she managed to scam a total of £31,217.71 from Miss Baker, who was aged in her 60s, but had the mental function of a five-year-old child and lived in sheltered accommodation. This sum included the £5,000 loan, which the court heard Santander Bank was still insisting that Miss Baker pay back.

Kiff, of St Leonard's Close, Banbury, had admitted 19 counts of fraud last month and was jailed for 16 months after Judge Ian Pringle told her she had breached Miss Baker's trust.

Wendy Hewitt, prosecuting, told the court that 40-year-old Kiff had worked as Miss Baker's sole support worker for many years and had been employed by Mencap since 1998 when the charity took over the company she worked for. Ms Hewitt said that Kiff had been using Miss Baker's debit cards from as far back as April 2007, until March 2011 when she ceased working with her.

Jane Brady, defending, said that Kiff had taken the money because she was in financial difficulty, and had wanted to help her recently-widowed father.

She told the court that Kiff and Miss Baker had been extremely close, and that Kiff regretted her actions.

"She took money from Miss Baker with a desire to improve other people's lives not her own," said Miss Brady.

"She accepts that it spiralled out of control."

Kiff was jailed for 16 months.

Banbury Cake writer wins top motoring award

THE *Banbury Cake's* motoring writer has been named the best in the UK for the third year running.

David Duffy, who also writes for sister papers the *Oxford Mail* and *The Oxford Times*, has been chosen as the Guild of Motoring Writers' regional motoring journalist of the year.

He has been writing about motoring for more than 30 years and has previously received a special award from the Guild of Motoring Writers.

Mr Duffy said: "Just to be in the company of the cream of British motoring personalities is a real honour.

"I love driving, I love cars and I love the freedom that they can bring. To be recognised for writing about something that you have a passion for is really pleasing."

He was presented with the award by Andy Wertheim, general communications manager for Mitsubishi Motors in the UK, which sponsors the regional writers' award.

Andy Wertheim, from Mitsubishi Motors, hands the trophy to David Duffy Picture: Jeff Bloxham

Another award winner at the ceremony, held at the guild's annual dinner at the RAC Club, in Pall Mall, London, was Patrick Head, engineering director of the Williams Formula One team at Grove, who was presented with the President's Trophy by Pink Floyd drummer, car enthusiast and Guild president Nick Mason.

Among those who were on hand to congratulate the winners were Paddy Hopkirk, the former rally driver who drove a Mini Cooper S to an all-British victory in the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally, Intercontinental Rally Challenge champion Andreas Mikkelsen and Michael Quinn, grandson of Jaguar founder Sir William Lyons.

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InBRIEF

Nursery plan

A planning application has been submitted to bring the first and only nursery to Adderbury. The plan – submitted to Cherwell District Council – will change an office into a nursery at The Hub at Twyford Mill, Oxford Road. It is a resubmission of a scheme rejected by the council in August for 35 youngsters. The council said the nursery would be "isolated" and suffer from poor public transport links. But backers hope further information on its impact will now see it approved.

Council praised

Cherwell District Council has reported its highest-ever levels of satisfaction from its annual customer survey. It said 1,018 responses from its Citizen's Panel found 75 per cent were satisfied with council services, up from 68 per cent in 2011. The results said key issues are anti-social behaviour, environmental crime and car parking facilities, though these saw a rise in satisfaction.

Festive trains

Three extra late-night trains are to be put on from London to Banbury for New Year's Eve revellers. Chiltern Railways will put on services at 12.30am, 1.30am and 2.30am from London Marylebone.

Mill boss says there will be 'no reduction in service'

Arts centre cuts loom but the show goes on

Nicholas Turner

By Oliver Evans

USERS of Banbury's Mill Arts Centre will see no difference in service when a £90,000 funding cut kicks in, a centre leader has said.

Mill management committee chairman Nicholas Turner spoke as staff were being consulted by owners Conservative-run Oxfordshire County Council.

The authority is putting in £199,000 this year but will cut this by £90,000 for the 12 months from April as part of widespread spending reductions.

It said savings – agreed in February last year – would be achieved by a "new staffing structure" but has not given further details.

The committee would also take all decisions, which at present have to be ratified by the county. Both groups currently employ staff.

Mr Turner – a Tory county councillor – said: "I don't believe it will cause any reduction in service at all.

"If anything it gives the Mill management committee more flexibility to deliver a more focused service."

A consultation involving up to five staff will finish at the end of the month and he said "it is not for me to say" what the savings plans are.

Cherwell District Council is this year giving £38,000 and has yet to decide its contribution for next year for the Spiceball Park Road centre.

But Mr Turner said £600,000 to £650,000 of the centre's running costs comes from ticket sales, putting it on a strong footing for the future.

He said: "If you look across the country, there are a number of arts centres that have had to close.

"Our strength is that, traditionally, the funding percentage we have got is only 20 per cent of our income."

The plans have been criticised by Mill regular and Barford resident John Christie, the county council's assistant chief education officer from 1989 to 1997.

Mr Christie – who asked about the cut at a meeting of the full council – called for a public consultation.

He said of the committee: "There is no guarantee that the services provided at present will be continued by such a body, which is unelected, undemocratic, unsupervised and unaccountable."

County cabinet member for safer and stronger communities Judith Heathcoat said the plans were for the Mill's "long-term sustainable future".

She said: "It is necessary for the council to make savings to the services it provides and initiatives it supports."

Forthcoming shows include comedian Jenny Eclair and the stage classic *An Inspector Calls*. It also hosts groups including the Anjali 2012 Dance Company for the disabled, Banbury Cross Players and Banbury Folk Club.

Women's service praised for helping to support the lonely

THE WRVS has been praised by Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry for helping to combat loneliness.

The Conservative MP backed the group as he gave his support for the national Campaign to End Loneliness.

The national WRVS is one of five groups leading the campaign and is to hold a Christmas Day dinner in Banbury. Sir Tony said: "It is fantastic that the WRVS in Banbury will be open on Christmas Day and I would certainly encourage all those older people who may otherwise spend Christmas Day by themselves to sign up for the festive feast."

For information about the meal call 01295 264214.

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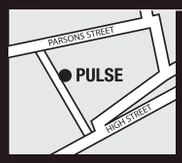

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InCOURT

Reports from recent magistrate's courts around the county

■ **STEVEN MCCABE**, 33, of Rotary Way, Banbury, admitted shoplifting a sandwich from Co-op in Rotary Way, Banbury, on September 27. Fined £50, £15 victims' surcharge, and £35 costs.

■ **ELIZABETH GRANT-ABBAN**, 39, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted allowing the production of cannabis being the occupier of the property in Bretch HIll where it took place on April 24. Fined £325, £15 victims' surcharge, and £75 costs.

■ **LUCASZ KOLODZIEJ**, 28, of Hastings Road, Banbury, admitted drink-driving, driving while disqualified and without insurance, in Sandford Green on October 1. Told to do 250 hours of unpaid community work in the next 12 months. Told to pay £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Banned from driving for three years.

■ **COLIN TOWER**, 46, of Miller Road, Banbury, admitted possession of amphetamine and cannabis with intent to supply in Miller Road, Banbury, on August 15. Fined £75, £15 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

■ **KIERON BARNES**, 21, of Miller Road, Banbury, admitted criminal damage to two double-glazed window panels to the value of £256 in Banbury on July 7. Given a 12-month conditional discharge, and told to pay £256 compensation and £80 costs.

■ **LEE BENNETT**, 33, of Harrowby Road, Banbury, admitted shoplifting meat worth £39.80 from Farm Food in Calthorpe Street, Banbury on September 10. Sent to prison for 21 days due to previous record.

■ **ADRIAN GREAVES**, 41, of Hearthway, Banbury, admitted shoplifting a memory foam mattress worth £129.99 from Poundstretcher in Lockheed Close, Banbury, on October 3. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **JOANNE MCCLEMENTS**, 35, of Evenlode, Banbury, admitted stealing a bank card in Cromwell Road, Banbury, between April 5 and 7, and also admitted fraud by false representation intending to make a gain of £215.23 on April 6. Community order made with a drug rehabilitation and supervision requirement.

■ **SAM-LEWIS ROBERTS**, 21, of Hill Close, Chipping Norton, admitted criminal damage to a blanket belonging to Thames Valley Police at St Aldates Police Station, Oxford, on October 7. Also guilty of using or threatening unlawful violence in Iffley Road, Oxford on October 6. Community order made with a programme and supervision requirement. Told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge.

■ **PAUL CAMPBELL**, 27, of Boxhill Terrace, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in Heyford Road, Middleton Stoney, on October 13. Had 88mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mg. Fined £480, £48 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs. Banned from driving for 22 months.

■ **KELLY PAWLEY**, 24, of Dover Avenue, Banbury, admitted shoplifting alcohol from Co-op in Ruscote Arcade, Longelandes Way, Banbury, on October 14. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £50 costs.

■ **JONATHAN MCCARTHY**, 28, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted possession of ketamine and cannabis in Banbury on September 25. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £30 costs.

■ **AARON JOINES**, 25, of Well Bank, Hook Norton, admitted criminal damage to a car door handle belonging to Thames Valley Police in Oxford Road, Banbury, on April 17. Given a 12-month conditional discharge, told to pay £223.33 compensation and £85 costs.

■ **DANIEL ARMITAGE**, 25, of Broughton Road, Banbury, admitted using threatening words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress in Banbury on November 11. Fined £55, £20 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

■ **LEIGH LESTER**, 39, of Causeway, Banbury, admitted being drunk and disorderly in Woodfield, Banbury, on November 6. Also admitted assaulting PC James Lowther-Harris in the execution of his duty in Woodfield, Banbury, on November 6. Fined £200, £50 compensation, £85 costs, and £20 victims' surcharge.

■ **JOSHUA WALKER**, 23, of Marshall Road, Banbury, admitted being drunk and disorderly in Park End Street, Oxford, on November 9. Given a 12-month conditional discharge. Told to pay a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **TONY ATTWOOD**, 31, of Park Rise, Ambrosden, admitted making off without paying for petrol worth £68.75 from Bicester Services, Oxford Road, Bicester on November 16. Also admitted shoplifting wine worth £100.98 from Tesco in Hart Place, Bicester, on October 7. Sent to prison for two weeks as on a suspended sentence. Total time to serve is 14 weeks.

■ **AARON TIMMS**, 24, of Lidsey Road, Banbury, admitted possession of four £20 deals of cannabis in Summers Close, Adderbury, on October 20. Given a 12-month conditional discharge, ordered to pay a £15 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

■ **ANDREW MARSHALL**, 27, of Samuelson Court, Banbury, admitted shoplifting a memory foam mattress worth £129.99 from the Poundstrecher Stores in Lockheed Close, Banbury, on September 21. Also stole food worth £146.80 from Farm Foods in Calthorpe Street, Banbury, on November 11. And stole another memory foam mattress worth £189.99 from Poundstrecher in The Calthorpe Centre, Banbury, on November 4. Handed a six-month sentence suspended for 12 months. Community order made with a drug rehabilitation and supervision requirement. Told to pay total of £136.62 compensation for 14 other crimes he asked to be taken into consideration.

■ **RICHARD BOCHENEK**, 51, of Orchard Way, Middle Barton, admitted assault by beating in Great Tew on October 11. Fined £375, £250 compensation, a £37 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

■ **TIMOTHY HARRIS**, 28, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted four charges of criminal damage totalling £1,528.25 to cars on September 7 in Banbury. Handed a two-year conditional discharge and told to pay a total compensation of £400.

■ **CHRISTOPHER PAXTON**, 24, of Park End Court, Bodicote, admitted shoplifting alcohol worth £24 from Co-operative in Banbury on October 17 and stealing a bottle of alcohol worth £16 from Co-operative in Banbury in October 16. Also stole a bottle of alcohol worth £16 from Co-op in Banbury on October 16 and a bottle of alcohol worth £15 from Co-operative in Middleton Road, Banbury, on October 15. Given a 24-month conditional discharge and told to pay total compensation of £66 and £85 costs.

■ **ROBERT WATERMAN**, 32, of The Daedings, Deddington, admitted using racially aggravated words or behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress in Banbury Railway Station on October 18. Fined £280, £80 compensation, £28 victims' surcharge, and told to pay £28 costs.

■ **EMANUEL NUNES**, 32, of Old Parr Road, Banbury, admitted two charges of theft by finding after stealing an iPhone worth £400 in Little Clarendon Street, Oxford, on November 3, 2011, and stealing an HTC mobile telephone worth £150 in Oxford on December 14, 2011. Told to do 100 hours of unpaid work and to pay total compensation of £350 and £85 costs.

■ **JOSE NUNES**, 34, of Old Parr Road, Banbury, admitted two charges of theft by finding after stealing an iPhone worth £400 in Little Clarendon Street, Oxford, on November 3, 2011, and taking an ACER laptop worth £586 in Oxford on December 8, 2011. Told to do 100 hours of unpaid community work and pay total compensation of £800.

■ **EDWIN SANDYS**, 39, of Middleton Road, Banbury, admitted breaching a non-molestation order by sending an email in Banbury on November 22. Sent to prison for 26 weeks.

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Christmas fun is key to harmony

Have you entered the festive spirit yet? The Stables in Milton Keynes has a show to warm the cockles of your heart.

In association with Proteus Theatre, The Stables this week launches *The Secret Garden*.

Can you find the key...? What would you do if you found a key? What would you do if you found the door that belonged to the key? And what would you do inside the Secret Garden?

Mary Lennox is lost and lonely. Sent away from her home in India, she finds herself in the wilds of Yorkshire in a vast mansion owned by a distant uncle. Soon the house begins to give up its mysterious stories, but can she find the key to the secret garden and discover what's inside? A story of unlocking hearts and minds, the redemptive power of nature and why some rules should be broken...

This well-loved children's classic is brought to life by critically acclaimed, award-winning international theatre company Proteus. Fusing circus, puppetry, film and music, this is a magical journey beyond the door into the garden of imagination.

The Stage described Proteus's *Arabian Nights* as "simply captivating" and *The Independent* branded Proteus' work "the best of British theatre."

The show is suitable for ages five and up and runs until January 5.

■ ***The Secret Garden* at The Stables, Stockwell Lane, Wavendon, Milton Keynes, MK17 8LU. Call 01908 280800 or visit *stables.org/Whats_on/The_Secret_Garden***

By Liz Nicholls

As essential as Christmas lights, carol singers and a decorated tree is the return of St Agnes Fountain to Banbury.

The Mill once again presents this hugely popular evening of wonderful Christmas music, song and readings by four of Britain's most accomplished performers.

But this year the show goes on in the wonderfully evocative surroundings of St Mary's Church, Horsefair today (Thursday).

For those who have never seen St Agnes Fountain before, this unforgettable show features carols and all kinds of festive songs reworked by these four entertaining musicians.

Founder David Hughes, guitarist, poet, songwriter and broadcaster, along with Fairport Convention's Chris Leslie and BBC Folk Awards 2009 Best Duo Chris While and Julie Matthews, bring musical invention and laughter.

This is St Agnes Fountain's 12th national Christmas tour. They formed in 2001 and have released eight studio and live albums. This year's release is *Twelve Years of Christmas*, featuring *In Dulce Jubilo, All Through the Night, Ding Dong Merrily* and *The Holly and the Ivy*.

■ ***Christmas With St Agnes Fountain* at St Mary's Church, Banbury, today (Thursday) at 8pm. Tickets £22. Call 01295 279002**

Sara Pascoe

Banbury's freshest comedy club is giving audiences a fabulous Christmas package this weekend – two top comedians for the price of one!

The Mill Comedy Club, at The Mill Theatre presents Sara Pascoe and Mary Bourke in a tremendous double bill today (Thursday).

The evening is set to provide great entertainment from two talented performers. Sara Pascoe is a writer and gifted actress (*In the Thick of It, Campus, Free Agents*) as well as an original comic who is a regular on Channel 4's *Stand Up For The Week*.

She is one of *Time Out*'s rising stars and has been described as a master at fusing silliness and intelligence. She enjoyed massive success in Edinburgh and is a regular performer of improvisation in London's best comedy clubs.

Mary Bourke is an award-winning Irish comic who presents her 'contrarians' guide to 21st-century life', covering everything from Mumsnet to *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

She made a huge hit when the appeared at the comedy club last season and The Mill has lost no time in asking her back for her no-holds-barred humour again!

■ **Sara Pascoe and Mary Bourke at The Mill Theatre, Banbury. Tonight (Thurs) 8pm. Tickets £10-12. Call 01295 279002.**

The Secret Garden and, *left*, St Agnes Fountain

Spanking good festive fun

Christmas gets off to a spanking good start with two foot-stomping gigs at The Mill Theatre, Banbury.

Festive revellers Spank the Monkey kick off proceedings tomorrow (Friday) with their brilliant brand of rhythm and blues.

On Saturday, folk-rock favourites Leatherat, *pictured*, hold their traditional Christmas bash at the theatre – an annual extravaganza into the wee hours at the after-gig do at The Wheatsheaf.

Spank the Monkey have enjoyed almost two decades of success in Banburyshire. Featuring guitarist Andy Tibbetts, blues harp wizard Paul Ashby, bass player Dave Marsh, drummer Phil Aris and Les Paul-toting guitarist Martin Green, this well established and much-loved band has always thrilled fans with their raucous live performances.

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SPONTANEOUS Upfront Witney lady, 37, 5'6'', blue-eyes, long-hair, size 10-12, part-time accountant, enjoys evenings out, cinema, walks, shopping, looking for a traditional gent, 35+. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131986**

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Thoughtful Oxford female, 42, 5', medium-build, fair-hair, blue-eyes, smoker, likes swimming, holidays, pubs and meals out, seeks a genuine male. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122427**

SPARKS FLYING Fun, curvy, green-eyed Wiltshire brunette, 44, looking for genuine, loving guy, to share some caring times and future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 852093**

FOR HAPPINESS Upbeat Swindon female, 45, 5'4'', would like to meet a male, to go on dates, share company and hopefully form a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127393 or send a text to 80360**

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Laid-back Swindon female, 46, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129 or send a text to 80360**

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 46, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 or send a text to 80360**

AS SIMPLE AS THAT Slim, blonde, divorced female, 50, likes socialising, cinema, weekend away, seeking a man, 45-50, for friendship first, leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134472**

BRING THE SPARKLE BACK Slim, active Chipping Norton female, 50, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, enjoys swimming, dog walking and keeping fit, seeking an honest, caring and trustworthy male, for dates and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 133543 or send a text to 80360**

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 51, grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804**

SEARCHING FOR YOU Down to earth, Mauritius-born Devizes female, 51, looking for someone for a serious relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120023**

BETTER WITH 2 Easygoing Chipping Norton female, 52, enjoys life to the full, swimming, walking my dog, seeking a kind, caring male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134536**

VA VA VOOM Positive, lovable and kind-hearted woman, ##Age#, would like to meet a vivacious, self-assured male, for love and an honest future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135186**

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 53, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360**

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 54, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360**

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest, bubbly female, 55, kind, loving, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670**

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 55, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895**

BE MY GUIDING LIGHT Sincere, slim, attractive, petite Swindon lady, 56, likes cosy times in, eating out, car boot sales, man 55-70, to settle down with, must be honest & trustworthy with no-ties. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135509**

FRIENDS FIRST Intelligent, attractive Wiltshire female, 56, widow, brunette, 5'2'', likes radio 4, reading, travel, art galleries and gym, new to area and seeking a similar guy, GSOH, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124892 or send a text to 80360**

RECIPE FOR LOVE Kind hearted, sociable Oxford lady, 56, active, caring, GSOH, enjoys rock concerts, seaside, animals and driving, searching for a warm, loving and funny gent, for company, sharing and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132 or send a text to 80360**

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MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 57, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215**

GIVE ME A CALL SOMETIME Separated, caring Devizes female, 57, genuine, loving, GSOH, likes reading, cooking, meals and cosy nights in, seeking a tall man, for friendship, leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132887 or send a text to 80360**

HEADLINE NEWS Sincere, reliable Wiltshire lady, 57, likes dogs, travelling and good conversations, seeking an honest, reliable male, for company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124692 or send a text to 80360**

CLOSE TO HAPPINESS Cuddly, young looking 58yr old Salisbury woman, likes travel, reading crime thrillers, all kinds of music, looking for a rugged man to make me smile & share fun times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 119145**

LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE Cuddly Chipping Norton widow, 59, widowed with grown up family. Enjoys walking her 2 dogs and playing bowls for a local team. Seeks similar gent, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132223 or send a text to 80360**

LIFE STARTS HERE Bubbly, attractive Witney female, 59, slim build, 5'5, sociable, enjoys nights out, conversation, days away and cosy nights in, seeking a funny and intelligent male, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134011**

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 60, 5'2'', curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360**

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 60, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 60, med build, 5'6'', GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161**

GENUINE AND CARING Oxfordshire widow, 61, 5'6'', slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487**

KNOW WHAT MATTERS Upbeat, cultured, sophisticated Banbury lady, 62, own house and car, likes swimming and wondering about the countryside, would like to meet an up-lifting man, to fill in the gaps. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123403 or send a text to 80360**

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART Happy go lucky Warminster female, 62, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544**

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE... Sociable, active Witney woman, 63, GSOH, widow, attractive, likes meeting people, theatre, drinks, meals out and walking, seeking a similar man, caring and genuine, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127066**

CHATS OVER A PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man. I'm 64yrs old, 5'7'', slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlborough/Wiltshire **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112241 or send a text to 80360**

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE Divorced Swindon female, 65, 5'5'', works part-time, likes walking, travelling and cooking, would like to meet a nice sociable gent, with a good lifestyle, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114628**

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Non-smoking Bradford lady, 65, 5'5'', slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing, music, theatre, seeking a gent, 63-68, to enjoy similar interest. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128404 or send a text to 80360**

SO HAPPY TOGETHER Loving, sincere and attractive lady, 66, cuddly, would like to meet a gent who likes country walks, meals out, social drinks and places of interest for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114914**

ADVENTURE AHEAD Warm, friendly Witney woman, 70, GSOH, youthful, attractive, likes dancing, walking, music, theatre, reading and meals out, seeking a tall, active and fun gentleman, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123234**

DOWN TO EARTH Happy-go-lucky Swindon female, young 71, loves walks, cooking, gardening, kisses, cuddles, looking for a N/S, clean-shaven man, for a loving relationship. Last caller pleave leave contact number. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 454288**

NEW PASTURES Friendly, happy Swindon lady, 74, looking for a cheerful, kind gent, who knows how to treat a lady and enjoy some good times together. Are you the one ? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 133285 or send a text to 80360**

NICE TO BE WITH Young-minded, retired Chippenham lady, 78, 5'7'', cuddly-build, likes crosswords, holidays, home life, seeking a nice gent, to share good company together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128540 or send a text to 80360**

FRIENDSHIP & ROMANCE Genuine, active Oxford male, 28, slim build, 5'7'', caring, enjoys the gym, cycling and generally keeping fit, would like to meet a similar female, honest, GSOH and fun, for friendship and love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122941**

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 32, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837 or send a text to 80360**

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER Down to earth Swindon male, 37, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100773**

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 39, 5'10'', med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360**

READY TO MEET MY SOULMATE Outgoing, sociable Oxford male, 40, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys living life to the full and would like to share it with a bubbly, attractive and kind female, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127095 or send a text to 80360**

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EASY TO GET ON WITH Down-to-earth guy, 40, varied interests, seeking a woman, 35-48, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134248**

PERFECT HARMONY Fun-loving, easygoing, tactile Witney biker, 41, 6ft, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, seeks fun loving, cheeky lady to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108035 or send a text to 80360**

TAKE HANDS Slim, tall Oxfordshire male, 43, N/S, musician and artist, searching for his perfect woman, to make life complete. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108016**

ENJOY GOOD COMPANY Honest male, 44, 6'3'', stocky build, gsoh, enjoys sports, travel, cosy times in, social drinks, seeks fun loving female, for happier times. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360**

LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO Happy, active Abingdon man, 46, GSOH, med build, positive, enjoys walking, swimming and cinema, would like to meet a similar lady, 50-65, fit and positive, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114348 or send a text to 80360**

CHANGE OF LUCK? Warm, blue-eyed Banbury male, 47, 6ft, kind and truthful, intelligent and thoughtful, searching for an understanding woman, to share and enjoy a quiet and happy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125562 or send a text to 80360**

WE CAN BE HAPPY Fun male, 44, likes meals out, keeping fit, weekends away, 5ft9in, seeking friendship maybe more with someone special. Banbury. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 854670**

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL Friendly Witney male, 48, 6', blue eyes, enjoys sports, music, cosy nights in, going out and having a laugh, would like to meet a female friend, for good company and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115039 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 50, 5'7'', brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Friendly, warm hearted Abingdon male, 50, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring matured guy, to enjoy good times together, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894**

UP AND UP Fun-loving Oxford male, 50, likes listening to music, watching movies, walks and nights out, looking for a nice female friend, for good times and maybe romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 875263**

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 51, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share the future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479**

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360**

ETERNAL COMPANIONSHIP Outgoing, divorced Witney male, 52, pubs, meals, nice walks, family life, seeking an interesting woman, to get to know better. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 52, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

LET'S DO IT Upbeat, friendly man, 53, good sense of humour, into most things, travelling, good foods, looking for love and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110840**

NOT TO BE MISSED Spontaneous, caring, hard-working Oxford guy, 54, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wine and F1, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115773 or send a text to 80360**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 55, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836 or send a text to 80360**

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Divorced, young at heart male, 55, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre and clubs, seeks caring female for happy times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107632**

HOPING FOR MORE Fit, slim-built Wallingford male, 57, likes swimming, keeping fit, animals, would like to meet a nice, loving, caring lady, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134615 or send a text to 80360**

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 60, 5'10'', own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107964**

THE BEST IS YET TO BE Caring, romantic Bicester male, 60, works full-times, loves weekend away, car boot sales and walking, looking for a lady 48-55 to share life and love with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118655**

SO GOOD TOGETHER Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 61, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466085**

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 61, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522**

READY TO MOVE ON Young, caring Didcot guy, 63, 5'9'', enjoys the sea, reading and boating, would like to meet a similar lady for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117043 or send a text to 80360**

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BE YOURSELF Affectionate Witney male, 57, blond-hair, blue-eyes, enjoys going out, walks and horse riding, seeking a woman, who wants to settle down. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132752**

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360**

CARING NATURE Articulate, vigorous and astute Witney man, 58, looking for a funny, innovative woman, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595**

PASSION FLOWER Young-looking, Wallingford 59yr old, 5'9'', dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema, bowling, days out and socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122**

CONNECT WITH ME Sincere Oxford male, 59, slim-build, 5'8'', likes cinema, swimming, country walks with my dogs, seeking an honest, caring lady, to spend quality times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128560 or send a text to 80360**

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Fairly fit Banbury man, 60, 5'11'', fair-hair, blue-eyes, works as electrician, looking for a nice lady around the same age, for friendship possibly leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122384**

MAKE A FRIEND Warm, romantic Bicester male, 65, searching for an interesting, active woman, for days out, friendship, meals and good company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851123**

KINDRED SPIRITS Presentable, educated chap, 66, enjoys the arts, history, places of interest, exploring towns/countryside on foot, wltm attractive, vivacious lady, for romance. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101058**

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 66, 5'9'', loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998**

LET'S SHARE THE GOOD THINGS Well preserved male, 66, 5'10'', adequate intelligence, passably handsome, active, inquisitive, liberal outlook, wltm bright, youthful lady for loving relationship and interesting times. Witney **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108871**

STILL SEARCHING FOR YOU Youthful, solvent, active, retired businessman, 66, 5'9'', 11st, own house & car, loves music, places of interest, experiencing the new, seeks a loving, feminine woman, 50-70, to share a warmth. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140**

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Fit, clean-shaven Thame gentleman, 67, easygoing, 6ft, active, enjoys gardening, golf, diy and the outdoors, seeking a similar lady, affectionate and fun, for friendship and hopefully love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126173**

RARE DISCOVERY Easygoing Thame widower, 67, 6', medium-build, likes gardening, playing golf, the outdoors, would like to meet a nice lady, for a lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134196**

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Friendly, faithful Didcot male, 67, 5'9'', likes rugby, football, DIY, gardening and much more, searching for a loving woman, to make life complete. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285**

SOUL TO SOUL Divorced, active male, 77, looks younger, 5'5'', N S, i enjoys pubs meals, car boot sales, crosswords and cosy times, wltm charming lady, to share quality times. Oxford area prefered. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 47, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 or send a text to 80360**

BE THERE FOR ME Honest, caring wiltshire woman seeking women only for social outings travel etc, anyarea... **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 113955**

LUCKY CHARM Serious, lovable and imaginative Malmesbury lady, 54, simply searching for an independent, free-thinking girl, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134242 or send a text to 80360**

PUTTING THE SPARK BACK Easygoing, stocky built Oxford guy, 49, blue eyes, likes pubs, cinema, the arts, looking for a similar man 35-60, for companionship and hopefully we'll see where it leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115976 or send a text to 80360**

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Sociable Oxford male, 52, likes country walks, bowling, cinema, playing darts, snooker, cosy times in, seeking a warm-hearted man, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126260**

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 64, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624**

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 65, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 69, 5'9'', medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360**

CALL ME Polite, friendly, solvent Banbury male, 75, would like to meet an assertive male, similar age, for friendship and possibly more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134312 or send a text to 80360**

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Output date:17/12/2012

Adaptation explodes onto 3D silver screen

LIFE OF PI (PG, 127 mins) Drama/Action/Romance. Suraj Sharma, Adil Hussain, Tabu, Irrfan Khan, Vibish Sivakumar, Rafe Spall, Gerard Depardieu. Director: Ang Lee.

Oscar-winning director Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*) experiences film-making in 3D for the first time with this handsome adaptation of the acclaimed novel by Yann Martel.

Life Of Pi is the first film since *Avatar* to fully exploit the eye-popping format, immersing us in the central character's water-logged odyssey, including a terrifying sequence in angry seas reminiscent of *Titanic*.

The hefty premium levied by cinemas to wear the uncomfortable plastic spectacles is worth every penny.

Lee's vision is breathtaking and entire sequences have been masterfully choreographed to take full advantage of the depth that 3D brings to the big screen.

A school of flying fish darts straight at the camera, causing us to duck and weave; the walls of a freshwater pool seem to stretch down into inky blackness forever; and shards of moonlight break through overlapping tree canopies laden with chattering meerkats.

It's a tour-de-force of technical wizardry.

Yet all of this gorgeous wrapping would mean nothing without a deep emotional core, and once again, Lee elicits stunning performances from his ensemble cast that leave us choking back tears.

In a slight departure from the source novel, screenwriter David Magee uses a simple framing device to draw us into the narrative.

An inquisitive writer (Rafe Spall) turns up unexpectedly at the door of Pi Patel (Irrfan Khan), having been told the stranger's life story deserves to be immortalised in print.

In flashback, Pi recounts his youth as the son of a circus owner (Adil Hussain), who decided to sell the family business in Pondicherry and emigrate to Canada with his wife Gita (Tabu) and two boys.

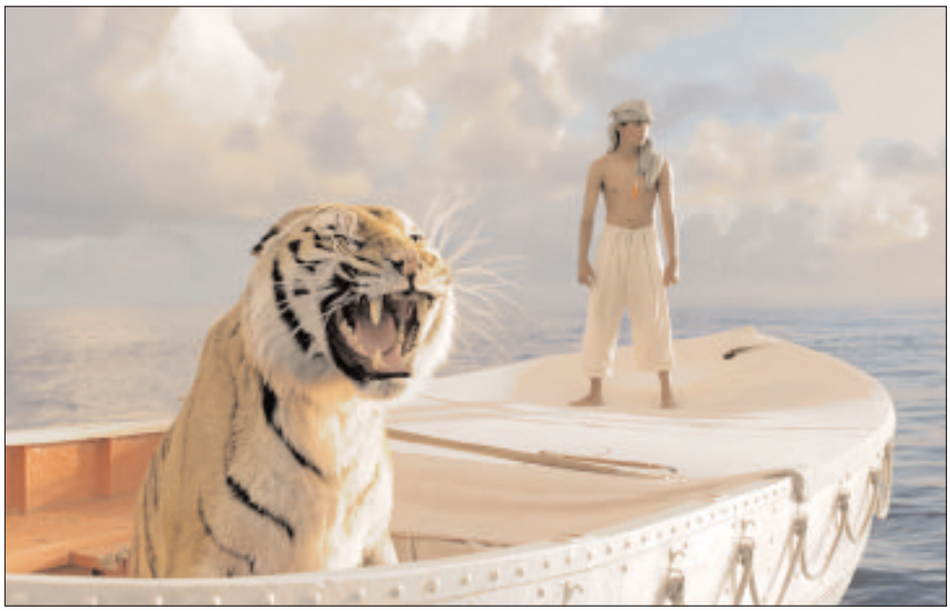
A raging storm causes the Japanese freighter to overturn and young Pi (Suraj Sharma) escapes in a lifeboat along with a zebra, orang-utan, hyena and a tiger called Richard Parker. The rest of the clan, including Pi's older brother Ravi (Vibish Sivakumar), perish at sea.

As the days pass, the predators prevail until just Richard Parker and Pi remain, trapped together in a vast expanse of water.

"I'm afraid his last meal will be a skinny, vegetarian boy," quips the trembling hero in voiceover.

Life Of Pi is a deeply moving tribute to the endurance of the human spirit in the aftermath of senseless tragedy.

Sharma, who has never acted before, is mesmerising, plucking our heartstrings in close-up as his character is flung repeatedly through the emotional wringer.



A scene from the *Life Of Pi*

Picture: **PA Photo/Fox Australia Film**

He doesn't strike a single false note and his relationship with the tiger is beautifully realised in tense, humorous and touching scenes.

Claudio Miranda's sumptuous cinematography ravishes the senses, enhanced by slick digital effects, which bring the menagerie of two- and four-legged species to life.

Lee marshals a dizzying array of elements with jaw-dropping ease, proving that substance and style can be blissful bedfellows in the right hands.

CakeWhat's on

Music

SATURDAY

The Blue Boar, 3 Goddards Lane, Chipping Norton: Evolution. Free admission. *01608 643525.*

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: Nativity II – Danger In The Manger, U, Fri-Sun 12.15pm, Christmas Eve 11.15am, Boxing Day-Thu 12pm. The Hobbit - An Unexpected Journey, 12A, Fri-Christmas Eve, Boxing Day-Thu 4pm; (3-D), Fri-Christmas Eve, Boxing Day-Thu 12.30pm*, Fri-Sun, Boxing Day-Thu 9pm*, Christmas Eve 7.20pm*. Life Of Pi, PG, Fri-Sat 2.40pm, Christmas eve 1.40pm, Boxing Day-Thu 5.40pm; (3-D), Sun, Boxing Day-Thu 2.40pm, Christmas Eve 4.20, 7.15pm, Fri-Sun 5.40pm, Fri-Sun, Boxing Day-Thu 8.40pm. Home Alone, PG, Fri-Christmas Eve, Thu 11am. Box office: 0871 224 4007.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:
Dec 20, Comedy Club with Sara Pascoe and Mary Bourke. 8pm. £12.
Dec 20, St Agnes Fountain (actually at St Mary's Church, Banbury). 8pm. Doors 7pm. £22.
Dec 21, Spank The Monkey. £10 at the door. 8pm.
Dec 21-22, Leatherat. 8pm. £12.
Box office: 01295 279002

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:
Until Jan 6, *Cinderella* by Ben Crocker. Come with us as we transport you to a land of magic and fairytales in this timeless classic tale. Ugly sisters, handsome princes and glass slippers all feature in this story of love, laughter and wishes made true.
Box office: *01608 642350m.*

Events

SATURDAY

Day Out With Thomas and Father Christmas: Railway Centre, via Parkway Railway Station, Didcot. Meet Father Christmas. Ride behind Thomas to Santa's grotto, with the Fat Controller ensuring everything goes smoothly. 10am-3.30pm. £10 (for child, to include a gift). *01235 817200*.

Trail : Letters from Santa: Pitt Rivers Museum, via Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford.10am-4pm. (please check for Christmas opening times). *01865 270927*.

SUNDAY

Big Botanic Christmas Tree: The Botanic Garden, High Street, Oxford. Until Jan 2. Festive tree adorned with natural decorations made by school pupils from across Oxfordshire. Free with admission to the gardens (adult £4, conc £3, child free). 9am-4pm*01865 286690*.

BOXING DAY

Headington Mummers: The Crown and Thistle, The Chequers, The Six Bells and The Masons' Arms, Headington Quarry, Headington. Headington Quarry Mummers with the traditional midwinter play of the triumph of good over evil. From 11.15am. *01865 714778.*

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19
I'm so happy to see the work prospects looking so opportune. Mars, the planet of change and unpredictability, allows you to boost your funds and your status today, so make sure you take full advantage. A jealous friend will be giving you bad advice. Know your own mind. Give me a call now to hear how confidence in love can work miracles over the coming days.
☎ 0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20
Mixed messages and riddles are what this week is all about in love. Unclear signals make for a difficult start to your week, but honest talking on Thursday can ensure you come out in full control. Look out for an ex trying to talk you back round to their way of thinking. Know your own mind my friend. Call me now to hear how the New Year promises compatible love choices.
☎ 0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20
What you do as a job is beginning to mean far more to you than it has previously, and I think that's because you're starting to see that you can actually make a good living if you make the right moves and contacts, the most important one being an influence who enters your life via social links at some point this week. Give me a call now to hear why it's important you dress well at this time.
☎ 0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22
Your emotions have been working overtime and it's going to be all too easy for you to accuse your close ones of doing things they hadn't even thought about. Careful how far you go or they may just decide to play the role you've cast them in. A younger influence helps you to see things from a more realistic viewpoint. Call now to hear how house moves are favoured for the New Year.
☎ 0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22
Someone you've fallen out with has now managed to upset your mood for the week. How can you rectify this? By sorting things out with them and not through a third party, as has so far been the case. Venus promises to stir your emotions but be careful of calling up people from the past if you know in your heart they're not good for you. Phone now for the low-down on 2013.
☎ 0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
Family prove more demanding than usual and you may spend much of your week running around trying to make their life an easier place to be. Just make sure you're not being used, but that you're being appreciated. Even just a thank you can be found if they try. Cancerians hold the key to the job changes which will be on your mind. Ring now to hear who your perfect love match is.
☎ 0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
Emotions have been running high and you have been living in the past but I'm pleased to see from your chart that you're finally starting to look at what a good future you have the chance to make. That's why you must say no when you get the chance to return to the past. You've been there and it didn't work. Acknowledge this fact. Phone now to make your life more suited to your needs.
☎ 0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
Finally your family seems to be coming together as you had originally planned. No more do you have to fight for what you want but the stars align to help you feel secure in who you are, who's around you and where you're going as a team. Gossip heard this weekend must not be repeated or you could be accused of starting it. Phone now so we can delve into your future together.
☎ 0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
Something you thought would not happen gets the go ahead. Better moods and attitudes from your family mean that there are fewer arguments and more time for fun. Travel offered by friends may well turn out to be more expensive than they say, so check facts and figures for yourself, particularly if deposits are non-refundable. Call now to look deeper into your future.
☎ 0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
Better ways to handle older faces in your life come from conversations and possibly a confrontation which occurs this weekend. The way that your job is carried out is set to change and don't worry if new faces come in to take over positions of power, it's likely to be a temporary inconvenience as events by the end of this month will soon prove to you. Phone now to hear what the New Year will bring.
☎ 0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
You haven't been happy with a situation in your life for some time now but due to circumstances beyond your control you haven't been able to do anything about it. You can now though, for with the power of Saturn behind you people are going to listen when you talk. Compromises can be found and new paths both personal and professional open up to you. Call now to hear all about it.
☎ 0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20
You're going to find it hard to keep hold of your cash this week as everything you see feels like a necessity. Social aspects look good but try to work out how much you can afford to spend before you venture out. You don't want to enter the New Year with a cash-flow problem. Love could see you telling white lies. Ask yourself if they're really necessary please. Ring now for clear vision.
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CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Evo-Stik Southern Football League, Premier Division

Bridges sees red as Banbury crash out

SCOTT Bridges was sent off as Banbury United's poor away form in the Premier Division continued with defeat at Bedford Town.

Bridges saw red for a reckless tackle with five minutes to go as Banbury trailed 2-1.

And from the resulting free-kick when keeper Lewis Kidd dropped Mark Bell's effort into his own net to leave Banbury beaten on the road for the third successive game.

Bedford Town	3
(Green 5, pen 32, Bell 85)	
Banbury United	1
(Agyeman-Prempeh 2)	

United had got off to the best of starts by taking the lead after just two minutes.

A long crossfield pass from Jack Ashton found Harold Agyeman-Prempeh, who powered into the penalty area and slotted past Bedford keeper Ian Brown.

However, the lead lasted only three minutes as former Puritan Will Green shot home from eight yards.

Bedford went on to dominate the rest of the half, and they took a deserved lead in the 32nd minute when Chris Jackson fouled Green in the penalty area, and the same player got up to convert the spot-kick for his second goal.

Banbury enjoyed a good spell midway through the second half, putting the home side under some pressure and a free-kick from substitute Chris Lait brought a decent save from Brown low down to his right.

But Bridges's dismissal and Kidd's clanger sealed their fate.

Banbury Utd: Kidd, Cray, Martin, Blossom, Ashton, Agyeman-Prempeh (Sharif 75), Jackson (Lait 58), W Plowright, Skendi (Dumbleton 43), Bridges, Talabi. Subs not used: Fry, R Plowright.

Banbury United's Scott Bridges

LATEST TABLES

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hemel Hemp	21	13	3	5	57	30	42
Leamington	16	12	3	1	32	14	39
Cambridge C	19	11	2	6	32	25	35
Stourbridge	20	9	6	5	42	23	33
St Neots T	19	9	3	7	46	39	30
St Albans C	20	9	3	8	36	32	30
Barwell	17	8	5	4	33	22	29
Weymouth	19	8	5	6	31	32	29
Chippenhm T	20	7	5	8	27	26	26
AFC Totton	17	7	4	6	30	28	25
Bedford T	20	7	4	9	26	27	25
Bedworth Utd	20	7	4	9	20	32	25
Arlesey T	16	7	2	7	22	22	23
Bashley	18	7	2	9	23	32	23
Gosport Boro	18	5	7	6	33	25	22
Frome T	18	6	4	8	19	24	22
Bideford	19	6	3	10	30	40	21
Chesham Utd	17	5	5	7	20	26	20
Banbury Utd	**18**	**5**	**5**	**8**	**28**	**35**	**20**
Redditch Utd	18	5	4	9	16	29	19
Hitchin T	17	5	2	10	23	33	17
*Kettering T	18	1	5	12	12	45	-2

*10pts deducted

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